

C O U N C I L   F O R   G E R M A N   J E W R Y .

Minutes of the meeting of the American Section of the Council for German Jewry held at 3.00 p.m. Friday, December 4, 1936, at the Federation Building, 71, West 47th Street, New York, N.Y.

Present:

Mr. Felix M. Warburg, in the Chair	Mr. George Backer
Mr. Paul Baerwald	Mr. David M. Bressler
Mr. Charles J. Liebman	Rabbi Israel Goldstein
Mr. Morris Rothenberg	Dr. Bernhard Kahn.
Rabbi Stephen S. Wise.	

By Invitation:

Hon. Julian V. Mack  
Miss Alice R. Emanuel  
Mr. Joseph C. Hyman  
Mr. Moses A. Levitt  
Mr. Bruno Schachner

Mr. James N. Rosenberg and Mr. Nathan Straus sent their regrets.

Mr. Warburg, in opening the meeting said that the members had been convened for the purpose of hearing from Dr. Bernhard Kahn of the work being carried on by the Council and of its present plans, and to enable Dr. Kahn to take back any message that the American Section may wish to give to the Council in London.

Mr. Warburg welcomed Dr. Kahn on behalf of the American members and expressed the hope that Dr. Kahn would be able to spend more time in London so that there may be a fuller exchange of views between the various organizations working for the German Jews.

Dr. Kahn stated that it might be relevant by way of preface to describe the composition and personnel of the Council. The British and American members of the Council and their alternates are as follows:-

British members

Sir Herbert Samuel, Chairman  
Viscount Bearsted  
Sir Osmond E. d'Avigdor Goldsmid,  
Mr. Simon Marks,  
Dr. Chaim Weizmann

Alternates.

Hon. Lionel S. Montague  
Mr. Lionel L. Cohen  
Prof. S. Brodetsky  
Prof. L. B. Namier

American members

Mr. Felix M. Warburg  
Mr. Paul Baerwald  
Mr. Charles J. Liebman  
Mr. Morris Rothenberg  
Rabbi Stephen S. Wise.

Alternates.

Mr. David M. Bressler  
Mr. George Backer  
Mr. James N. Rosenberg  
Rabbi Israel Goldstein  
Mr. Nathan Straus.

Baron James de Rothschild has expressed his willingness to act as alternate for Mr. Warburg whenever Mr. Warburg would request him so to serve, and Mr. Otto Schiff has also offered to serve as alternate for other Americans.

Rabbi M. L. Perlzweig and Captain Robert B. Solomon have been nominated by Rabbi Wise and Mr. Rothenberg to represent them at meetings of the Council in London.

Dr. Bernhard Kahn participates in the meetings of the Council as a representative of Messrs. Werburg, Baerwald and Liebman.

There are two Honorary Directors:

Professor Norman Bentwich,  
Sir Wyndham Deedes

In the absence of Professor Bentwich, Mr. Leonard Montefiore acts as one of the Honorary Directors.

Messrs. M. Stephany and L. Bakstansky are the Secretaries. Mr. J. L. Cohen acts as Honorary Secretary and Mr. S. Adler-Rudel as an expert Secretary on conditions in Germany.

Two permanent committees have been appointed: one for training and re-training of prospective immigrants under the Chairmanship of Sir Osmond d'Alvigor Goldsmid, and the second committee, under the Chairmanship of Sir Herbert Samuel, to serve as liaison between the High Commissioner for German Refugees, Sir Neill Malcolm, and various Jewish organizations.

Regular meetings of the Council take place every three weeks and special meetings are called when necessary.

Dr. Kahn stated that the British members of the Council are very desirous of and would welcome a greater American participation in the deliberations of the Council. The present representatives of America at the Council meetings are not Americans and it is felt that the views of American organizations are not adequately presented. The British Section of the Council expects that England and other countries will raise £1,000,000 and that America will raise \$2,000,000 for the program of the Council over a four year period.

Dr. Kahn described the work of the British Section in detail, enumerating the various projects for which appropriations have been made. The British Section had raised by the beginning of October 1936, \$2710,000 in cash and pledges payable over a four year period. It had appropriated \$355,000 for 1936-1937 or about \$100,000 more than was planned. Due to the fact that immigration certificates for Palestine had not been received for 3500 German emigrants, the sum of \$250,000 allocated for the settlement of this number will probably be reduced by \$100,000 so that the budget of the British Section will fall within the sum originally contemplated for an annual expenditure.

The Joint Distribution Committee has allocated \$964,500 to aid German Jews within and without Germany during the year 1936.

ICA has expended, during 1936, \$40,890 for activities inside Germany.

The United Palestine Appeal had allocated \$50,000 for 1936 to be used for the settlement of German Jews in Palestine. This sum is part of the \$250,000 originally appropriated by the British Section for this purpose. Dr. Kahn stated that a larger sum had been expected from the United Palestine Appeal for 1936. Dr. Wise said he shared the disappointment of the British members that it had not been possible to appropriate a larger sum.

Dr. Kahn pointed out that none of the participating organizations remits money to Germany. A clearing arrangement has been made with the German finance authorities, whereby the funds of German organizations, prospective emigrants and others, are utilized in Germany and foreign exchange is placed at the disposal of the institutions and individuals outside Germany, for training, settlement and other purposes. Dr. Kahn, emphasized that the funds available for such clearance and transfer of German funds outside of Germany are insufficient and that considerably larger sums could be utilized for this purpose.

In reply to a question of Rabbi Goldstein, Dr. Kahn stated that neither the Joint Distribution Committee nor the ICA remits funds directly to the Council. There is thus no pooling of funds but the work of each organization on behalf of German Jews is jointly planned so that there is no duplication or overlapping. Each organization controls the expenditure of its own funds.

Dr. Kahn pointed out that the American Joint Reconstruction Foundation has advanced since 1935, \$501,000 for credits to cooperatives in Germany and has appropriated another \$200,000 to be used in the next year or two for the same purpose. In addition, \$150,000 has been appropriated for credit cooperatives in other countries to aid German Jews of which \$50,000 was made available in Palestine.

Mr. Liebman described the work of the Refugee Economic Corporation and its affiliate. He stated that appropriations totalling \$1,074,109 have thus far been made to aid German Jews. These appropriations include funds for the establishment of loan kassas in various countries, for direct loans to refugees and for urban and rural settlement of German Jews. The sum of \$330,000 has been allocated for Palestine.

A number of promising projects are being studied in Central American countries which will require substantial sums. The Corporation has sent a representative to the Argentine to help in the settlement of the large number of German immigrants who have come to that country.

Dr. Wise stated that it had been the intention of the United Palestine Appeal to appropriate for 1937 a sum larger than the \$50,000 allocated this year. However, due to the greater needs of the Keren Hayesod, resulting from the disturbances in Palestine, the United Palestine Appeal has undertaken a commitment to the Mifal Hapitzaron, the Special Emergency Fund, and consequently, Dr. Wise thought that the United Palestine Appeal would probably not be able to make available for 1937 for the purposes of the Council for German Jewry, more than \$50,000.

A full discussion ensued on the various phases of the work of the Council. Dr. Kahn expressed the opinion that the Council had achieved a good deal in the coordination of the work of various organizations so as to prevent overlapping. Emigration from Germany was on a more orderly and organized basis than it had been and that as a result of the efforts of the Council, a larger emigration had taken place in 1936 than in any previous year, disregarding the flight of German Jews during the first year of the Nazi regime.

The meeting adjourned at 4.30 p.m.

Council for German Jewry: Minutes. 4 Dec. 1936. TS Archives of  
the Central British Fund for World Jewish Relief, 1933-1960